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164th Infantry News: December 1999

164th Infantry Association

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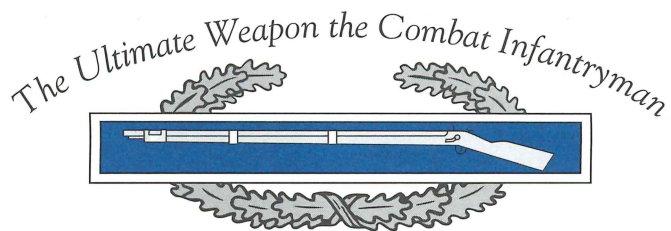
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THE 164TH INFANTRY NEWS

Vol. 39 • No.4

December 1, 1999



—Merry Christmas from Bougainville—

Across The Miles

From Under The Great Southern Cross

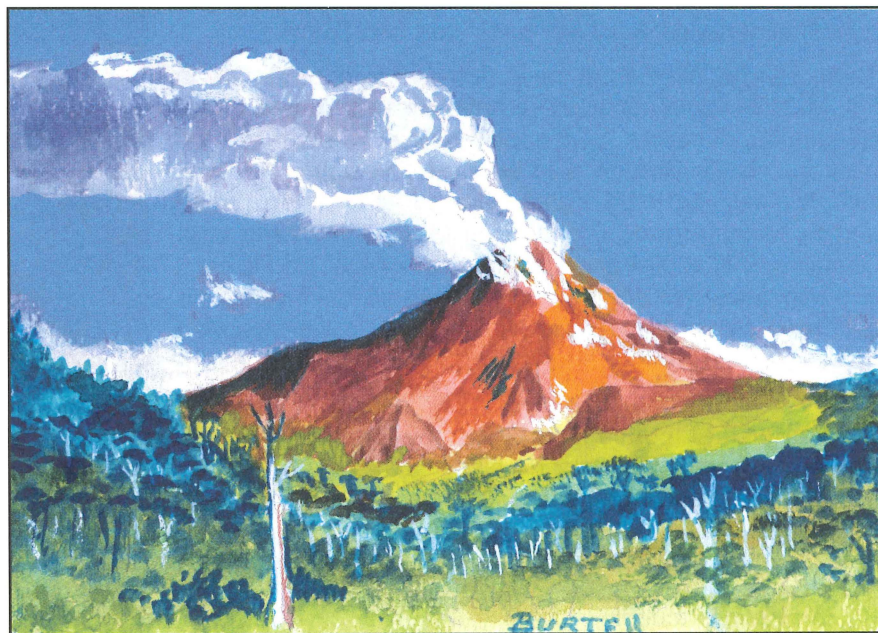
I Extend To You

A Very Merry Christmas

And Best Wishes For The New Year

(56 years ago this Christmas greeting was sent home by men of the regiment.)

Mount Bagano, a active volcano greeted the 164th Infantry when the Regiment landed on Bougainville Christmas Day 1943. Fifty six years ago the members of the Regiment had their first view of a smoking mountain that rumbled, grumbled and shook the ground. One wonders if Santa Claus had the equipment to deliver Christmas presents!



Doug Burtell, 164th Infantry WWII, painted this picture of Mount Bagano and stated that he patrolled around the smoking mountain many times. Burtell and other members of the patrol tried to climb Bagano but had to give up because of the heat, steam and falling rocks. Doug stated he and others took a quick swim in a stream and found the water very warm as it was heated by the volcano.



Father Thomas Tracy celebrating Christmas Mass in 1942, Guadalcanal.

LETTERS



To The Editor :

10/22/99

Jim,

Had the usual grand time at the reunion and was surprised to finally win a 164th prize after about 29 years. Prior to 1970 I lived up in Ontario, Canada, gathering moose and bear for hunters. Was especially glad to see Charley Ross and Milt Shedd. They were exceptional officers and took to combat like pros. Charles stayed on until retirement with 3 CIB's and a lot of experience. Milt went on to start Sea World.

There were a lot of good times in the Pacific, especially in Fiji. Most of my contacts there have passed away. Edward Cakombau, of course, died shortly before we made the trip back in '78. Sir George died just a few years back. I was lucky to meet them in Suva (in the Grand Pacific bar of course!) and to become good friends with them. They were both Captains, C.O.'s of A and C companies of the 3rd Fiji Bn. I had wild times with both of them and did a lot of fishing with dynamite. When they came to Bougainville we swapped parties. (When we had the beer or booze.) Both were top-notch officers.

Thanks for the information you sent a few months back. Enclosing a photo of Hetty and I taking our first hot-air balloon ride. The weather was perfect, a slight wind, sunny and warm. It was a novel experience.

Keep in touch!

Chuck Walker
Box 265
Pembina, ND 58271



Ballooning in Colorado, Chuck and Hetty Walker.



50 or more balloons went up in the air.

(Editor's note: A little different view than the one you had in 1943 when you were hoisted up the 100 foot million dollar

tree on Bougainville for a quick scan of the terrains. This trip much more pleasant accompanied by the beautiful Hetty Walker.)

October 9, 1999

Dear Jim,

What a wonderful way to finish a vacation! My wife and I attended my annual Marine reunion, which was held this year in Bismarck, North Dakota, on September 17th and 18th. We spent some time touring your beautiful country then returned to Bismarck. We decided to stay for a few days before flying back to Orange County, in California. We were taking a walk the night of your convention and happened to see the marquee in front of the Radisson Hotel. Coincidentally, before we left home, my friend Bob Ford, who was in the 164th Infantry, gave me a note to see if I could look up some information on

where his annual convention might be held. Well, I'll be damned if it wasn't the same outfit that was on the marquee! (What are the odds of that happening?). We went inside to check it out, and that's when I met you, Jim, and some of your friends. You all gave us such a warm welcome, we felt we were part of the family. By the way, I chewed Bob's ass out for not participating! I told him that he will getting information about the next reunion, which will be in Fargo, North Dakota We are still elated that we were so lucky to have found you, and got to take part in your fun.

Jim, you asked me to send you some of my service background. I joined the Marines in San Diego, January 2,

1942, the day after my 18th birthday. I was in 3rd Battalion, I Battery, 10th Marine 2nd Division. We trained there in San Diego, and practiced ship to shore landings on the coast near Oceanside. We left San Diego sometime in July, and landed on the small island of Gavutu on Guadalcanal on August 7, 1942.

Gavutu was next to Talagi. We went ashore with 75 pack howitzers. We did not fire them, as we were used as infantry. There was a small tank that was taken in with us that got hung up on a coconut stump. I remember the name of the tank captain, a Mr. Sweeney. He was my officer of the day aboard the ship, just before we landed. He was killed by a molotov cocktail along with all of the men who were in the tank with him. They were in this little cave, and took out a lot of Japs before the tank was blown up. A few days later, when things settled down a bit, three of us were assigned as a team to bury the dead Japs. We had a long rope with a big hook on the end of it. I was on the top of the bodies with the hook, picking them up and helping to pull them into shell holes.

A couple of months later, my outfit, I-3 10, was ordered to go to help the 1st and 2nd Marine Division who had been on the canal. We were glad to get off that stinking island! We were in two small ships. I was on the first ship, which was the USS Seminol. About three-quarters of the way there, we saw two destroyers on the horizon, heading towards us. We thought they were our Navy. Pretty soon they started to shell us, while dogfights were going on over our heads. As it turned out, Higgins boats were on the way from the canal to rescue us, but we had no way of knowing that at the time. I was able to get on a Higgins, since I was on the first ship to go over. About half the way to shore, looking back, we saw the USS Seminol go down. (I've enclosed a copy of a report where a diver found the vessel, sunk in October, 1942, in Guadalcanal waters.) Everyone on that ship got off end onto the canal.

As we headed up on the beach, the Japs started to shell us. You talk about digging a foxhole in a hurry! I dug mine next to a coconut tree, by a stack of 500 gallon gas drums. A shell hit the stack and the shrapnel was flying every where. Meanwhile, the second ship tried to go back to the island where we were coming from. They didn't get far because they were also being shelled. The water was all churned up and there was lots of noise and confusion. The Higgins boats eventually got them out of the water though, and miraculously, we only lost three or four men.

Later that night, our outfit was reunited. What a relief it was to see those guys! We had a very happy reunion. Everyone was so worried about what had happened to the rest of our outfit, knowing what could have happened to them in the water. We were all glad to be alive. The other Marines helped us out with clothes and whatever else we needed and it was a night when we all felt grateful. I've often thought of how brave our naval men were, risking their lives to save us. There are so many unsung heroes, and only they know who they are.

We left the canal sometime in February of 1943, to go to New Zealand for reorganization. We trained there and eventually went to Tarawa. We were there about a month. We re-secured the island, after a terrible battle where a lot of men were lost on both sides. The Japs had the island well fortified and our guys had to go in with little or no reliable reconnaissance.

Again, there were lots of courageous men who did an outstanding job, relying solely on their training and each other for survival.

After we left Tawara, we headed for Hawaii and reorganized again, since we had new replacements. I thought for sure that I would be sent home at that time, but no such luck. We did some landing craft training and went into Saipan. One day, my buddy and I were checking an area for headquarters and we looked into a small cave. We saw a Jap in there, lying on his back. My buddy said he thought the guy was probably dead and started to leave him there. I thought I'd take a closer look just to be sure. As I stared at him, I noticed some sand roll off of his eyes and chest. I put a rope around his neck and pulled him out of there. He was a 2nd LT. I probably should have shot him, but took him prisoner, instead.

After leaving Saipan, we went aboard ship again, thinking we would be heading back to a rest area. Instead, we went in on Guam. The campaign lasted about a month. We secured the island, and went back to Hawaii. After three years of combat, I finally got orders to come home.

By the way, Jim, my brother was in the Army, and lost his right arm in combat. He was in the Army Engineers, working on an airstrip. The enemy slipped in with no air aid alert and he got hit during the shelling.

I didn't intend for this to be a documentary. As a rule, I don't talk to many people about those war years. Once the memories are recalled, however, I find they are right there, close to the surface. You never forget what you went through to stay alive. When I look back, and remember all of the heroic acts of the good men and women who fought in that war, I agree with Tom Brokaw. We are the greatest generation, and I'm damned proud of it.

Thank you for your warm welcome in Bismarck. Semper Paratus
May God bless you and all of your buddies.

Sincerely,

Ray Piper, 3-I-10
720 Rigsby
La Habra, CA 90631

.....

A Soldier's Story

The rifleman fights without promise of either reward or relief. Behind every river there's another hill- and behind that hill, another river.

After weeks or months in the line only a wound can offer him the comfort of safety, shelter, and a bed. Those who are left to fight, fight on, evading death but knowing that with each day of evasion they have exhausted one more chance for survival. Sooner or later, unless victory comes, this chase must end on a litter or in the grave.

General of the Army
Omar N. Bradley

October 13, 1999

Jim,

My golfing buddy, Ray Piper, was going to Bismarck for his "Forgotten Battalion" Marine reunion last month, September 1999.

I wrote on a piece of paper 164th Infantry H-Co. and told him I'd never been to North Dakota but the 164th was formed from Jamestown, Bismarck and Fargo and if by chance he inquired around he may meet someone.

Low and behold after taking a week driving around sight seeing they came back to the Radisson Hotel and the sign outside read 164th Infantry reunion. Ray asked his wife Bonna where that note was that Bob Ford had given him, cause he couldn't remember 134th, 124th etc... Bonna pulled out of her purse and sure enough it read 164th Infantry. So Ray and Bonna went inside while your dinner dance was going on and met you. He said you invited them to breakfast the next morning and introduced him around and Jim Johnson remembered me. Ray said you and all guys were really a great bunch of guys.

Ray brought back a copy of your 164th Infantry News and a copy of the 164th Infantry Regiment Limited Edition History from 1885 to 1955 and an application for membership which I will send out.

I've had two telephone conversations with Jim and Florence Johnson and he sent me some photos and information. I mailed a packet to him yesterday.

Ray said you had asked him to have me send some photos and information to you. I am enclosing those. The commendation and resulting photos landed in my hometown newspaper and after the war I read them (my mother had saved them) and it made me feel that I was a war hero when in reality I was a private then corporal and making buck sergeant going to Japan.

I was sent as an infantry replacement into Fiji and placed into H-Co. 164th Infantry after they had comeback from Guadalcanal. I was with the 1st Squad H-Co. landing in Bougainville Christmas Day 1943. Then to Leyte, Cebu and Negroes. After the bombs dropped on Japan I landed at Yokahama and was an MP in OME Japan for a few months prior to shipping out for Seattle and discharged after 26 months overseas and 32 months in the army.

Ray said you are an attorney. He really appreciated the hospitality you gave him and Bonna taking him around and introducing them to the people at breakfast.

I hope to meet you some day.

Bob Ford
1409 La Canada Dr.
Brea, CA 92821
PH 562-691-7251

Hi Frank,

Enclosed is my check for \$25.00 for the following: \$10 for raffle, \$10 for dues, and \$5 for pin. Sure wish that I could make the reunion but maybe next time.

Wonder if anyone out there might have info on a couple of guys form the old "B" Co. Red Livingston and Billy Hanson. Just wonder if there still around.

Best to all the fellows form the 164th best darn regiment there ever was.

Gordon Bostrom
3029 Jeunne Rd
Augusta, CA
30906-3277

54th Annual Reunion

Dear Ben,

This has been a very hectic year for my wife and I, and as of now I do not think we will be able to attend this years reunion.

In case we cannot, I am sending in my dues for next year \$10.00 with the raffle tickets \$10.00 and also the Life Membership for \$50.00.

Greet Co. "C" for me and all others for a great reunion.

Sincerely,
Maurice L. Hannum
Co. "C" 164th
145 Bernard St.
Powell, Wy 82435-2619

August 24, 1999

Dear Editor:

Just had to write and let you know I thought your August 1, 1999 issue was great.

Only one thing missing (maybe you planned it that way) I would sure like to have seen a list of the officers and especially the editors name.

A Navy man having a favorite Army unit may not be novel but just wanted you to know (I've said it before) the 164th was far and above my top unit.

Once again, a great issue.

Aloha,

Ted Blahnik
Guadalcanal Campaign Veterans
Echoes Editor/Director
PO Box 181
Coloma, MI 49038

September 30, 1999

To James M. Fenelon,

My suggestion regarding 164th publication; fewer issues (2 per year), fewer pages, elimination of color, forget about implementing 5 year subscription plan, elimination editorial staff one editor OK, do not publish next copy we just completed our last reunion, send newsletter by cheapest method (4th class mail)?

Je Suis Pret

Anton C. Beer

1505 9th Ave NW #7

Mandan, ND 58554

.....

September 26, 1999

Dear Mr. Kemp,

In the September issue of the "164th Infantry News," on page 8 there were two pictures of Bill Buege, a tent mate of mine on Bougainville. In picture #1, the soldier furthest to the right and pointing to the chapel, is Captain John W. Jenkins of Menomonee, Wisconsin. I regret to say that within several years of his arrival home, he developed cancer of the pancreas, a rapidly deadly disease, and died shortly after.

I shall never forget our first night on Bougainville. We camped next to the airfield. Towards dusk we heard the sounds of one airplane. Some veterans said it was one of our planes and we relaxed just in time to hear the swishing of bombs dropping through the night air. Bill Beuge went into an adjacent foxhole which was already occupied by a snake! Needless to say, he scampered out of there in a hurry to the satisfaction of the offended snake.

Being and artist which almost became my vocation rather than medicine, I came across a sketch which I did of Mount Bagana. It reminded me of the beauty of the island which compared to some degree the rough times we had on occurrence.

I must close with a story about Tony Hannel. In one of our journeys into the jungle, Tony and I thought that some fresh fish for dinner would be a welcome relief from our dry rations. Tony said he would fire a hand grenade into the stream adjacent to our barrack site. He walked into the refreshing waters of the stream ahead of me holding the hand grenade behind him over his buttocks. "Why are you holding it in back of you?" I called. "You skinny butt." He answered back, "If it accidentally goes off, it won't do as much damage!"

Keep up the good work with the Infantry News!

Sincerely,

David S. Marshall, MD

1023 Mahantongo Street

Pottsville, PA 17901

October 1, 1999

Dear Mr. Kemp

I am returning the \$164.00 to be used where you may need it. Thank you for the gift.

Sincerely,

Tommy Evans

13621 Hwy. 635

Alex City, Al 35010

(Editor's note: Thanks a most generous gift. It will help the 164th Newsletter.)

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Gentlemen:

I believe I saw in the next to last 164th Infantry News, an Alan Brown being on the AWOL list.

I understand Alan Brown is a pretty sick man, so I will bail him out with my check #27979 for another year.

Sincerely

Clarence Blacha

"Co C"

4582 Belmont Rd

Grand Forks, ND 58201-7916

(Editor's note: Clarence you are a true friend. Thanks)

.....

October 16, 1999

Dear Sirs,

My husband, Clyde B., was in Co. H., 164th Infantry and served in the Pacific Theater. He passed away in 1993.

I would like the paper sent to his son, Jon, who is very interested in his father's military service. Send to:

Jon Rasmussen

704 27th Ave

Milton, WA 98354

Thank you

Eloise Rasmussen

10260 NE 21st Pl.

Bellevue, WA 98004

.....

September 27, 1999

Greetings

It was a nice reunion and my son and I had a grand time.

Thanks

Laura Veintsch

1205 32nd Ave. SW

Minot, ND 58701

September 1, 1999

Dear Sirs:

Your August 1, 1999 edition of the 164th Infantry News is to be applauded as a very very excellent report of our battles and how we had to fight on Guadalcanal.

The reunion I would love to go to and meet old buddies but those of us who live off of Social Security and live a thousand miles or more away just don't have the necessary finances.

I trust those who live in North Dakota will go to their reunion.

Sincerely,

Vince Powers

Co "B" 164th

816 Nez Perce Dr.

Hamilton, MT 59840

September 27, 1999

Dear Mr. Kemp,

I wrote you a few weeks ago requesting information on the 164th, in which my father served during World War II. Thanks very much for your quick response, and for passing my letter along to your editor. I'm finding the materials you sent very interesting and helpful.

I am enclosing a check for \$25.00. The postage for the packet you sent came to about \$5. Please consider the rest as a donation to the Association.

Thanks again for your help.

Sincerely

Robert Dodd, Jr.

9183 E. Courthouse Blvd. Ct.

Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077

9-3-99

Dear "Ben"

Thought all through the year I would be able to attend this years reunion and have the opportunity to see all my old "friends." Regretfully you (the association) scheduled our get together on the same day as my High School Reunion. This will be our 60th (and will be our last) Reunion. I graduated with the Class of '39 in Mareitta, Ohio. Not too many of us left out of total of 240 schoolmates. The war claimed an unusual number of them. I was one of the lucky ones I guess. Able to go from the "Canal" 'til the landing in Yokahama you had to be lucky. Hope and pray I can see you all next year and please remember me to all who know me. Have a great 3 days.

My regards

Paul H. Longaberger

507 Caroline Ave.

Williamstown, WV 26187

Dear Ben:

I will not be able to attend the Reunion, but here is my \$10 for the tickets, and an extra \$25.00 to help with expenses.

Sincerely,

Tomy Clausen

2726 2nd Ave. West

PO Box 1144

Williston, ND 58802

10-8-99

Sir:

Enclosed is my check for a 1 year subscription to your newsletter. I was a member of the 164th Engineer Bn, Co C. ND National Guard Cando unit, from Cando was a unit of the 164th Infantry.

Thank you

Gerald R. Maurseth

PO Box 743

Cando, ND 58324-0743

Dear 164th Infantry Association,

Enclosed is a check for \$20.00 for my year 2000 membership dues and 3 raffle tickets.

I really enjoy reading the newsletter and I'm proud to have served 2 years and 11 days with the 164th. The Association is doing a great job and keep up the good work.

William H. Dailey

1522 East Vineyard Rd

Hayesville, NC 28904

9-2-99

Dear Ben Kemp

I am sending a check for \$10.00 to take care of Orlando Giallonardo of Natuk, dues for 1999. He has been in poor health and his wife has problems also so they might of forgotten.

Gil and I were in service together. He was my company clerk like my right arm.

Thank you

Nicholas Ostapchuk

582 Ramona St

Rochester, NY 14615-3232

164th - Co "B"

September 15, 1999

Dear sir:

My father, Robert Dodd Sr., was a native of Fargo and served in the 164th Infantry during World War II. He died 24 years ago next month. In a continuing effort of mine to preserve my family's history, I would very much like to learn more about the 164th, its role in the war, and, to the degree possible, my father's specifics in regard to it. Like many others, my father didn't talk of the war often and, though I knew something of his experiences, as a kid it soon just became a background fact to me - he was my old man and he'd been a soldier in the war. It was only much later that I became aware of places like Guadalcanal, Bougainville and Leyte and could appreciate the momentous things that happened there.

If your organization has any information that would be of help to me in learning more, or even in finding other sources for going about that, I would truly appreciate it. I've enclosed a self-addressed stamped envelope to make a reply more convenient, and if you have materials that won't fit it, by all means send them - I'll be glad to reimburse postage or other charges. If for any reason you'd like to speak to me directly, feel free to call me collect evenings or weekends at (651) 457-2547.

I thank you for your consideration of this letter, and for any help you can give me in learning more, and in preserving an important part of my family's history.

Sincerely,

Robert Dodd, Jr.
9183 E. Courthouse Blvd. Ct.
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077

Dear Sirs:

Enclosed is a check, please send me 1 164th Lapel Pin \$5.00 and 1 membership \$10.00 for Brian Fosaaen, 910, 12th Ave North, Dickinson, ND 58601. Brian is the oldest son of my late brother, Alvin J. Fosaaen.

P.S. Also send me a copy of 164th Membership \$10.00 to the kitty.

Knute Fosaaen
7061 Beach Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32216-2830

(Editor's note: Al Fosaaen was in Hqds, Detachment 2nd BN. 164th. After WWII, Al Fosaaen graduated from Law School, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks under the G.I. Bill.)

October 15, 1999

Sirs:

By luck I just found out last month of the 164th Infantry Association. I was in H Co 164th from 1943 to Nov 1944. Served 3 months on Bougainville then to the Philippines - Leyte, Cebu, Negroes Oriental and into Japan for a few months of occupation. Discharged November 1945.

Robert L Ford
1409 La Canada Dr.
Brea, CA 92821

August 21, 1999

Have just finished reading the August 164th Infantry News. What a marvelous edition! My husband Robert and his brother Donald were a part of the 164th - both of them are deceased. Neither one spoke a great deal about the war, consequently the 164th news is of great interest to our family. Thanks for all your efforts. Am enclosing my dues.

Donna Hoff
1342 N 3rd St.
Fargo, ND 58102

Dear Ben,

Enclosed is a check for \$60.00. \$10.00 for tickets and \$50.00 for a Life Membership. Hope to see you and all of Joe's friends at the reunion, but I might have to make a change of plans.

Thank you for everything.

Sincerely,
Carmen Burgad
(Joseph R. Burgad)

August 20, 1999

Hello to all,

Hope all well with you and yours. We are OK. Took our fall trip to Minnesota and North Dakota this year. Been doing it for 21 years. Had a very good trip, no car problems, got to see a lot of old friends.

The wife, Jayce and kids, Linda and Tim, had a Birthday Surprise on me for my 80th the last week in April. Linda and Terry from Red Lake Falls, Minnesota, Tim and Pam from Pottsboro, Texas. A good time was had by all. Hope for many more.

The best to all

Don Oster
9132 E Elman Ave.
Mesa, AZ 85208-2932

Dear Ben,

I'm sorry that I didn't make it plain that the \$100 was for your General Fund. I don't expect to be around much longer. (I'm age 91) but still like to get the latest 164th Infantry Association News --- hopefully for a few more years!

Je Suis Pret,

Herman D. Wildermuth

P.S. In case you do not know; I was not in the 164th during WWII. My membership goes back to 1927-1930, while attending NDSU.

9-1-99

Dear Sirs:

I'm enclosing a check for Bob's 2000 dues. He has a very difficult time writing but I've enclosed his attempt anyhow as that was his request. On top of everything else his eye sight is going too so he has a lot of idle time.

I'm enclosing \$5, if you would please send him a Regiment Custom pin, too.

Thank you and I'm sure his thoughts will be with all of you at the time of the reunion.

Thank you

Donna Todd

.....

Dear Jim

You can tell Joe that I have Boyds address. He is here at the home with me. He came about 2 years ago. Had a stroke about 1 year ago but is getting along OK. Its not bad at the home. I can't make the reunion but hope its a success. I have been here 3 years. See Weist once in a while and talk to Weber in California.

Robert Todd

Old Co. H - 1938 to June 1944

The Soldier Home

Box 500 Room 202

Orting, Washington 98360

Bob Boyd

The Soldier Home

Box 500 Room 108

Orting, Washington 98360

.....

A REPORT ON 164TH NEWS

In the minutes of the 54th Annual Reunion Resolution #4, the members present directed that each Association Member be contacted, by letter, for recommendations for funding and guidance in continuing the publication of the 164th News.

The letter was sent to 640 members on 20 November 1999. As of this date 187 repliers have been received with donations/subscriptions in the following amounts; 1 - \$250; 30 - \$100; 25 - \$60; 1 - \$50; 1 - \$40; 1 - \$35. This is an excellent response. Ben Kemp, Secretary/Treasurer, advised that each day a few more envelopes arrive in support for continuation of the 164th News.

I am confident we will reach our goal by January 15, 2000, so a firm plan can be made for the continuation of the 164th news.

In the next issue of the 164th News, 2000 names of all members making a donation/subscription will be published. It will be appreciated if you would use the ballot mailed to you.

Your support is greatly appreciated. Thanks.

A very Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy Year 2000 to you and your family.

JE SUIS PRET

Alvin Tollefsrud-President

Dear Ben.

You will be amazed at the number of combat veterans living in Florida. Since I had the Americal marker and shoulder patch mounted on my car I've met veterans of all branches of service whose paths crossed ours in the Solomons and the Philippines. The Americal is well known in the South Pacific.

Enclosed is my check for dues and please send me the regimental flag.

Best regards,

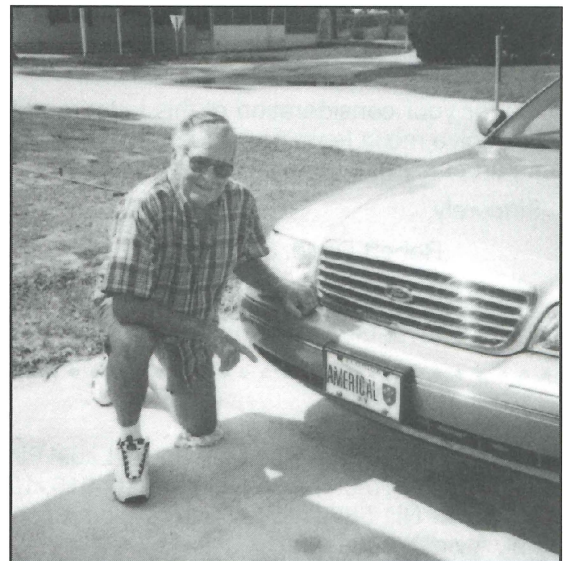
Bob Shea,

Co. D. 164th

Fiji - Bougainville - Leyte - Cebu - Negroes

555 4th St. Lot 32

Vero Beach, FL 32962-2917





Thoughts on Christmas On Bougainville in 1943



As Told By Lt. Col. Anton C. Beer and Lt. Col. Herbert J. Mack.

We landed with the old North Dakota 164th Infantry Regiment on Bougainville Island in the Solomons at dawn on Christmas Day, 1943.

There was little in it to remind us that it was Christmas, but it was still a Christmas Day never to forget.

Our regiment had been in rest and malaria-recuperation camp on the Fiji Islands after taking part in the Guadalcanal Campaign.

Then one day we shipped out for Bougainville on an assault transport.

About the only reminder that it was Christmas Day when we got there came at about sunrise, when the ship's captain got on the intercom and said something like this:

"Gentlemen, we've got about four hours to get this ship unloaded and get out of here before the Jap bombers can get here from Rabaul. Merry Christmas."

Over the side we went on cargo nets and down into the landing craft, and then into thigh-deep water, carrying our submachine guns, .45's, cartridge belts, ponchas and company records in a musette bag.

We had lunch on the beach, in a foxhole we found there, with Father Tracy, regimental chaplain from Bismarck, and an Australian chaplain. We sat in that hole and ate our K-rations.

As Christmas Day wore on, we moved out to the line and located our mortar and machine gun positions and dug foxholes and consolidated the position.

Company K had an awfully big sector to defense — maybe as much as 1,200 yards.

(Company K was the Dickinson unit and Beer was the company commander, a captain, and Mack was the company first sergeant.)

But there, on the defense perimeter, we stayed for weeks — weeks during which we ranged over almost the whole



Lt. Colonel Beer



Photo Credit-Bismarck Tribune

Lt. Colonel Mack

island, hunting down the Japanese as our intelligence reported their presence.

Many memories of the day are vague now, 22 years later, but it's not hard to recall that having to spend Christmas Day away from home like that is one of the hardest things for a man to take, especially a family man who'd like to be with his family for Christmas.

Editor's note: Tony Beer entered World War II service with Bismarck's Company A as a second lieutenant, and took command of Dickinson's Company K during the fighting on Guadalcanal. He retired from regular army duty Sept. 1, a lieutenant colonel, now lives in Mandan at 211 Seventh Ave. SW. Herb Mack was a student at Dickinson State College when he left in February, 1941, with Company K, leaving the unit while on Bougainville to return to the states to attend officer's candidate school. He is a lieutenant colonel now with the office of the North Dakota adjutant general and lives at 209 Owens Ave. (Bismarck Tribune) circa 1965.

2000, The Millennium comes!!

Remember back in those war years when the motto was "Golden Gate in Forty Eight:" after which someone would always chant bitterly, "Breadline in Forty Nine", remembering the experience of the WWI veterans. We expected little better having grown up in Depression days, and were very pleasantly surprised when in August 1945 all of us "Old men" from TF 6814 days were rotated home. The war ending, as it did, when we were off Hawaii cheated us of our homecoming to some extent, but we were "Home alive in Forty Five", and the GI Bill opened up wondrous doors to all of us, not only in schooling we never dreamed possible, or training in trades, but in help with buying a home for the families we raised.

Surely, we were among the luckiest generation in history. And who among us would ever have thought we'd live to see the year 2000? It looks very possible at this point....

EXCERPTS FROM DOUG BURTELL DIARY

The 164th landed on Bougainville on Christmas Day, 1943. I was in the regimental reconn platoon and these are just a few notes I jotted down at the time. My later comments are in italics.

January 1, 1944 - Went on 5 day patrol with Fijians and Col. Matheson seven miles beyond our lines. Gave the Nips the slip twice and cut their communication lines. Picked up native and little boy who were hunting pigs in Jap territory. Crossed hot water river - cause - volcano (Mt. Bagana), Bougainville, 6,000 feet. Jungle in "Bogie" the worst yet, but malaria is scarce. Japs I've seen are all fat, look in good shape. Col. Matheson (Australia) was killed during a tank drive by the 132nd Infantry. Was a swell fellow and a wonderful soldier. I hated to see him go. (I was on the five day patrol with him and the Fijians, who are excellent scouts. Our platoon rescued 40 sick and starved natives from the hills. It was sure the most pitiful sight I ever saw.

Regarding the above patrol, Joe LaFournaise and Albert Sevigny and I were asked to volunteer to go on a long range patrol in enemy territory as far as the Saua River. We could carry no identification--dogtags, billfolds, or cigarettes. We were gone 5 days. We left from "B" Co. lines and slipped around the Jap lines two or three times in the vicinity of Hills 250 and 600. When we reached the Saua River, the patrol split and part went upriver. Sevigny and I went downriver. We came upon a newly constructed corduroy road with communication lines, which we cut out and strung back into the jungle. We believe this is the road on which they brought up their artillery in the March attack.

We returned to the main body of the patrol and at that time a large body of Jap soldier were starting to cross the river. Col. Matheson decided we should pull out. On the return trip, we picked up an old Bougainville native and his son who were hunting wild pigs with a spear. We took them hostage and returned to 3rd Bn. lines after five days and Col. Ordahl broke out coffee and cigarettes, since we had been without them for five days.

When we returned the old man to the native compound on the beach where there was an interpreter, we found he was chief and his entire tribe was hiding in a cave on the backside of Hill 1111 and were starving. We took another patrol out and rescued them. As I recall, one old woman died on the way down. We gave them corn cob pipes and Prince Albert, which was greatly enjoyed, especially by the old women. (see enclosed picture)

January, 1944 - Bougainville - moved to a new area and one of the new recruits was killed by a falling branch.

This new replacement, whose name I cannot recall was 18 years old. We called him "the Grinder" because he was always grinding on his hunting knife. All the older men, upon hearing the branch crack, hit the deck, but he being inexperienced was hit by the falling limb, and killed.

On Bougainville, many of the trees were 75 to 100 or more feet in height and riddled with shrapnel from artillery burst from friend and foe. So when a strong wind would blow, branches would break off. "Grinder", the new replacement, was standing up and did not recognize the sound of the branch cracking. The branch was about 8 inches in diameter and 7 or 8 feet in length and probably fell about 75 feet before hitting the new replacement on the head, smashing him to the ground and killing him instantly.

Bougainville situation different than that of Guadalcanal. (Quiet except for patrols of which I have been on 10). Tonight, March 7, 1944 the Japs are to make a last stand by attacking our lines. (Two Jap divisions will attack). Main attack is believed to come on our front. We are all sweating out the coming battle and our rotation home. Glasow from A.T. Co. committed suicide--shot himself through the head. In January, 1944 one man from 37MM A.A. cracked up and began shooting all over hell. He was hauled after a little struggle.

Haven't had an air raid since February 11, 1944. Don't think we will have anymore now that Rabual is neutralized. Two Japs surrendered to K Co. Seven have surrendered to our Division--unusual for the Japs! The last air raid killed General Hodges' driver.

March, 1944 - I was made corporal for the 3rd time. MacCarten and Sevigny also made it. Got drunk twice on cherry jack on "Bogie" (no more!).

March 8, 1944 - 6:05 AM - Jap/44 Artillery opened on our beachhead. Started two big fires. We are really pouring it on them now. Think they will attack tonight or tomorrow night.

March 11, 1944 - Nips hit 145th Inf., repulsed and up to now (March 15, 1944) 1,000 Japs killed all around our lines. They did not hit our lines as Yet. "C" Company killed 13 Nips on patrol yesterday.

March 15, 1944 - "E" Co. killed 13 Japs, never lost a man.

March 16, 1944 - No Nip artillery fire this morning. First this has happened since March 14. Jack Ogelsby was wounded by mortar - not serious. He's fine. Engineers are making a road to hill 600. Think we will push sometime future days. 132nd Infantry had an 18 man patrol ambushed, 2 men got back.

March 17, 1944 - 3:00 AM - Washing machine over. (No damage). Jap shell hit bomb dump-explosion. 1325 Japs killed by count all around line. We are building road to Hill 600. Saw Gen. Harmon.

I was tearing down a dusty road in a jeep when I saw a soldier on the road as I roared by. I hit the brake and said "Hey Bud, want a ride?" He said "No, solder, I'm Gen. Harmon and I'm just out for a walk."

March 26, 1944 - Jap attack all petered out. All their artillery knocked out. Went on patrol atop Hill 600, hit Jap O.P. as they threw "knee mortars" and grenades, but no one was hurt. Killed one Jap. We registered artillery and knocked O.P. out. We returned to our lines in the dark--rough going--boy, I was tired.

March 29 - April 2, 1944 - Went with 2nd Bn. as liaison man on Bn. push to secure Hill 1111, 600 and 250. Drive really worked out swell--communication was 100% perfect, which was leading factor. 2nd Bn. good outfit. "G" Co. had 2 officers and one enlisted man KIA and 5 WIA. "F" Co. had 1 KIA and 4 WIA. I left 250 and guided a carrying party up 600 to help bring "F" Co. casualties down. Christ, what rough go it was at night. I had a casualty, but he pulled through. "Doc" we brought up helped him a lot. Plasma too--it's wonderful stuff. "Doc" was new man--sure didn't have the old spirit--bitched 'cause he had to go up 600 at night. Just an old woman.

Artillery cooperation was excellent. I estimate we killed several hundred on Torkina River Crossing with artillery fire. Boy, what a sight to see that artillery hitting right in on them.

April 2, 1944 - "Top" asked if everyone could swim. (I think something is in the wind).

I then became a swimming instructor for those who could not swim. Something was in the wind--our next invasion in the Philippines.

April 10, 1944 - Going to work in the office for 10 days. (Good rest). Jap 6" artillery threw in about 16 rounds. No casualties. 1 SBD destroyed. There won't be much more of that. We are mopping up now--Japs leaving everything behind. The last two Jap prisoners we captured died before we could get them in. Too bad, but the bastards deserve it. Received my watch today. (O.K.).

April 11, 1944 - Our regiment received 97 replacements. Rotation looks better.

April 16, 1944 - My birthday today - 20 years old. Went out to Hill 250. Will stay until operation is over. The gnats are terrific here (dammit!). We get along quite nicely with the colored boys. I met a few of their sergeants. Really hit the coffee heavy. Chamely insists this be transformed into a historical document by entering his name - Boyd C. Chamely - (what a character).

Boyd was small fellow and Albert Sevigny nicknamed him "petit souris", French for "little mouse". Boyd Chamely was later transferred out of reconn and back to "G" Co. and was killed at Abijou on Leyte in 1945.

April 19, 1944 - Col. Garvin leaving & Col. Gee taking over. Officers throwing a big party tonight. Men sure don't like it--enlisted men had to pitch a special big tent to throw party in (West Point officers sure as hell don't impress us--quite a clique). Trouble with colored troops is poor officers. They don't care about the welfare of their men. Our men are helping them and instructing.

April 25, 1944 - Landings made above Weswak and at Hollandia, New Guinea. Got beer issue today--3 pints--Schlitz.

April 26, 1944 - Went on 4 day patrol to reconn Hill 1111 and vicinity. Made trip in two days. I was 1st scout the first day.



Photo credit: Doug Burtell. On the back of the picture - "4 July 1944 SWPA. This isn't Hollywood."

Found a Sixth Division shoulder patch.

(The Sixth was the outfit involved in the Rape of Nanking).

April 30, 1944 - Payday today.

May 1, 1944 - Put \$20.00 in soldiers savings.

May 5, 1944 - Returned from 4 day patrol, forward and reverse of Hills 1000 and 1111. Were issued 6 pints of beer. Took three rookies along, all took it good except one fellow.

May 14, 1944 - Bob Kilpatrick made rotation.

June 6, 1944 - Returned from 5 day patrol to find that the 2nd front opened at 8:00 AM this morning.

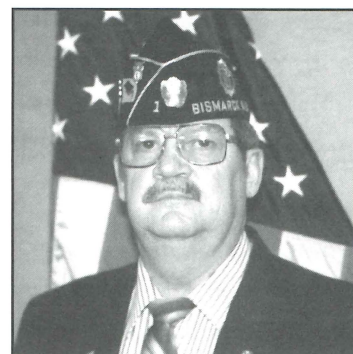
(The Invasion of Normandy).

In regard to the picture of the natives - in the upper left hand corner you can see a little old gray haired man with something on his shoulder. There is a little boy standing next to him. I believe he is the one we took into custody on the patrol.

Vern Fetch Elected Vice President of 164th Association

Colonel (retired) Vern Fetch of Bismarck is a retiree from the North Dakota National Guard having first served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict. While with the Guard he served in Germany, Luxembourg, Belgium and Honduras. His last assignment in the Guard was Director of Full-Time personnel and also served on the Adjutant General's executive staff. He is an active member of the American Legion, having served as Commander of Lloyd Spetz Post #1 in Bismarck and also as Commander of the Fifth District of North Dakota. He is currently the State Chairman of the American Legion High School Oratorical Contest Committee and serves on the National Staff of the High School Oratorical Program. Vern is a Past Grand Chef de Gare of the North

Dakota 40 et 8, the legion's fun and honor society and has served as the Chiminot National, a national office in the 40 et 8. Vern is a graduate of Saint Mary's High School in Bismarck, of Bismarck State College, and the Army's Command and General Staff College, Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas. Vern enlisted in Service Company, 164th Infantry, North Dakota National Guard in 1953. He retired from the Guard in 1995. Elected Vice President 164th Infantry Association at 54th Annual Reunion, Bismarck, ND.



Christmas for the GI/ Visit from St. Nick

'Twas the night before Christmas
He lived all alone,
In a one bedroom house made of
Plaster and stone.



I had come down the chimney
With presents to give,
And to see just who
In this home did live.

I looked all about,
A strange sight I did see,
No tinsel, no presents,
Not even a tree.

No stocking by mantle,
Just boots filled with sand,
On the wall hung pictures
Of far distant lands.

With medals and badges,
Awards of all kinds,
A sober thought
Came through my mind.

For this house was different,
It was dark and dreary,
I found the home of a soldier,
Once I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping,
Silent, alone,
Curled up on the floor
In this one bedroom home.

The face was so gentle,
The room in such disorder,
Not how I pictured
A United States soldier.

Was this the hero
Of whom I'd just read?
Curled up on a poncho,
The floor for a bed?

I realized the families
That I saw this night,
Owed their lives to these soldiers
Who were willing to fight.

Soon round the world,
The children would play,
And grownups would celebrate
A bright Christmas Day.

They all enjoyed freedom
Each month of the year,
Because of the soldiers,
Like the one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder
How many lay alone,
On a cold Christmas Eve
In a land far from home.

The very thought
Brought a tear to my eye,
I dropped to my knees
And started to cry.

The soldier awakened
And I hear a rough voice,
"Santa don't cry,
This life is my choice;

I fight for freedom,
I don't ask for more,
My life is my God,
My country, my corps."

The soldier rolled over
And drifted to sleep,
I couldn't control it,
I continued to weep.

I kept watch for hours,
So silent and still
And we both shivered
From the cold night's chill.

I didn't want to leave
On that cold, dark, night,
This guardian of honor
So willing to fight.

Then the soldier rolled over,
With a voice soft and pure,
Whispered, "Carry on Santa,
It's Christmas Day, all is secure."

One look at my watch,
And I knew he was right.
"Merry Christmas my friend,
And to all a good night."

*(This poem was
written by a Marine
stationed in Okinawa,
Japan.)*

Fiji Islands of the Dawn

By Karen Schwartz-The
Associated Press

Taveuni, Fiji - When the new millennium comes, it will come first to Fiji. The 180th meridian cuts through this group of islands in the South Pacific, so - theoretically - when it's 1999 on one side, it will be 2000 on the other. Past and present. Old and new. That's Fiji - a study in contrasts.

It's here where the descendants of cannibals are now gracious hosts. Where indigenous Fijians have at times been outnumbered by immigrant Indians, and where azure blue waters lap against white sand beaches.

And it's here where the most hyped location for the advent of the 21st century is marked by a simple wooden sign that sits next to a dusty dirt road on the island of Taveuni.

As we studied the unimpressive sign that marks the 180th meridian, a group of about 20 children who were playing in the shallow water cast shy glances in our direction. It didn't take more than a friendly wave for the children to come scrambling up the beach.

164th Infantry Flags & Pins

18 Regimental Flags with Battle Streamers - \$20 postage included.

27 Lapel Pins - \$5.00 postage included.

Contact Ben Kemp, Sec./Treas.



1st Squad H Co. 164th
Infantry, November,
1944

Standing Left to Right:

1. ?
2. Fowler
3. Allen
4. Clifton Fitzgerald

Front Row Kneeling Left to Right:

1. Bryant
2. Bob Ford
3. Sgt. ?

BOUGAINVILLE THE FORGOTTEN CAMPAIGN HARRY A. GAILEY 1943-1945

The 1943 invasion of Bougainville, largest and northernmost of the Solomon Islands, and the naval battles during the campaign for the island, contributed heavily to the defeat of the Japanese in the Pacific war. Harry Gailey presents a definitive account of the long and bitter fighting that took place on that now all-but-forgotten island. A maze of swamps, rivers, and rugged hills overgrown with jungle, Bougainville afforded the Allies a strategic site for airbases from which to attack the Japanese bastion of Rabaul. By February of 1944 the Japanese air strength at Rabaul had indeed been wiped out and their other forces there had been isolated and rendered ineffective.

The early stages of the campaign were unique in the degrees of cooperation among Allied forces. The overall commander, American Admiral Halsey, marshalled land, air, and naval contingents representing the United States, Australia, and New Zealand. Unlike the other island campaigns in the Pacific, the fighting on Bougainville was a protracted struggle lasting nearly two years. Although the initial plan was simply to seize enough area for three airbases and leave the rest in Japanese hands, the Australian commanders, who took over in November 1944, decided to occupy the entire island. The consequence was a series of hard-fought battles that were still going on when Japan's surrender finally brought them to an end.

For the Americans, a notable aspect of the campaign was the first use of black troops. Although most of these troops did well; the poor performance of one black company was greatly exaggerated in reports and in the media, which led to

black soldiers in the Pacific theater being relegated to non-combat roles for the remainder of the war.

In the pages of his book, Gailey brings again to life this long struggle for an island in the far Pacific and the story of the tens of thousands of men who fought and died there.

(Editors note: Additional excerpts from Gailey's book will follow in future additions.)

Corrections, Additions, Ect...

The picture in the August 1, 1999 newsletter, page 8, the correct names are - (L-R) Glen S. Elliot, Capt. and John J. Miller, 2nd Lt. commissioned on New Caledonia, assigned to Anti-Tank on Guadalcanal, back to Fiji as C.O. of Reg. Hdqs. Co. moved to Bougainville and back to the States via Espirits Santos. Thanks J.J.M. for the correct information. Lt. Col. S. Baglien (short one) picture taken on Guadalcanal.

In the September 1, 1999 newsletter, page 7, the correct name should be John Holt. Sorry John, sometimes a mistake will slip in.

Minutes

The 54th business meeting of the 164th Infantry Association was called to order by President Frank Weisgerber at 9:30am, Sep 25, 1999.

Minutes of the 1998 business meeting were published in the December 1998 issue of the 164th Infantry News and were adopted by voice vote.

The following committees are appointed for the next reunion.

Time & Place Committee - select a place for year 2001

Don Robinson, Chairman

Ralph Gaugler and Bernie Wagner, members

Finance Committee- Wally Johnson, Chairman

Elmo Olson and Tony Beer, members

Resolutions Committee - Jim Fenelon and Truman Lykken

OLD BUSINESS

Milt Kane and Jim Fenelon reported on the Educational Scholarship Fund. Milt reported that the Scholarship Fund was a dream of Wally Johnsen, and that it takes time to put something like this together. A PIN number is being obtained from IRS for the bank account. Contributions to date total \$1388.25. More donations and contributions are being sought. Later this year a committee will be appointed and set up to contact the universities and schools to get the information out to the students. Jim Fenelon reported that this will be a "separate non-profit corporation, in no way connected with the 164th Infantry Association." "The funds that are coming in will go to the 164th Infantry Foundation." Upon receipt of the PIN number from the IRS, final incorporation papers will be drawn up, and upon 501-C-(3) IRS designation of non-profit organization, the scholarship committee will set up a board of directors to develop a procedure as to how individuals can make application to receive funds from the scholarship foundation.

NEW BUSINESS

- * President Weisgerber reported that Governor Schafer submitted his regrets for not being able to attend our Reunion, and wished all attendees his best. General Alex Macdonald and General Keith Bjerke also submitted regrets, and wished the members their best.
- * The Fargo Reunion Committee extended an invitation to attend the year 2000 reunion at the Holiday Inn, Fargo, 22-24 September, located at I-29 and 13th Ave. South.
- * ..Brochures are available in the Courtyard to contribute to the World War II Memorial in Washington. Bob Dole is the chairman and approximately \$15 million has been donated so far.
- * ..It is reported that as of this date, approximately 1100 burials have been made in the Veterans Cemetery, located South of Mandan, ND
- * Newsletter - There was much discussion on the continuance of the newsletter and the cost to maintain it in it's current format. Jim Fenelon reported that in order to maintain the lower postal rates, 4 issues per year must be published. Discussion centered around the color costs, and should we retain color or go to black and white. Strong issues were presented on both sides. Ralph Gaugler suggested members make a \$20.00 donation per year for five years to pay for newsletter costs, and that would allow us to keep the color format. Bernie Wagner objected, stating that if you want color, "read the Fargo Forum Comics." President Weisgerber took a "straw vote" to see who would be willing to pay the \$20.00 per year. Results were 52 yes and 14 no. Weisgerber said the entire membership would be polled by putting the issue to vote in the Newsletter. A decision on the format of the newsletter would then be made.
- * Senator Sands of Langdon, ND shared an incident that happened in New Hampshire, when an ex-marine stated that he had served on Guadalcanal in WW2 and was "very grateful for what the 164 did there."

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Time & Place Committee reported that the year 2001 reunion will be held in Bismarck, 14-16 September

Finance Committee - Wally Johnson gave a favorable report

Nominating Committee - reported the following offices:

President : Alvin Tollefsrud

Vice-President : Vern Fetch

Secretary/Treasurer : Ben Kemp

Editor : Jim Fenelon

Resolutions Committee (Chairman Jim Fenelon; Trumann Lykken, member)

WHEREAS, the objectives of this Association are to perpetuate the comradeship developed in serving together in a common military unit, and to continue to foster devotion and loyalty to God, State and Nation.

AND WHEREAS;

Resolution #1- The members assembled in the 54th Annual Reunion wish to commend President Frank Weisgerber and the members of the Reunion Committee for their devoted service in planning a pleasant and successful reunion

Resolution #2 - To place the annual financial report in the next issue of the 164th Infantry News.

Resolution #3 - To list, if space is available, the 164th members attending the annual reunion.

Resolution #4 - To prepare and mail a letter to each- member of the Association on the future of the publication of the 164th Infantry News and recommendation for funding for the publication and various options for the membership to consider to serve as advise and guidance for the officers and executive committee to consider for the continuation of the 164th Infantry News. All resolutions were unanimously adopted.

Ralph Gaugler reported that Ray Conlon acknowledged that he will donate \$100 per year for 5 years to go toward the newsletter.

Warren Bentry said he would like to have permission to try to locate the wooden statue of the Japanese warrior "Divine Wind". Permission was granted. (postscript...the statue was located by Vern Fetch. It is being stored at Fraine Barracks in Bismarck.)

Motion by Beer, second by Robinson to adjourn meeting adjourned at 10:40am

Respectfully submitted by Vern Fetch, acting secretary.

Signed Frank Weisgerber
Frank Weisgerber, President
Sept 25, 1999

Signed Vern Fetch
Vernon Fetch, Acting Secretary
Sept 25, 1999

54TH REUNION FINANCIAL REPORT
24 - 26 SEPTEMBER 1999
RISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

INCOME \$16,055.00
STARTING BALANCE \$500.00
INCOME* \$15,555.00

* Includes Registration; Raffle Ticket Sales (\$3,450.00); Annual Dues, Sales of Flags, Pins and sale of tickets on Door Prize.

EXPENSES \$13,376.15
Funds Paid to the Association \$5,031.14

RAISSON INN \$6,673.42

Lunch Meeting \$ 25.00
Lunch Meeting \$ 20.54
Raffle Ticket Permit \$ 25.00
Refund, No Shows (Chemistruck) \$ 90.00
Refund, No Shows (Cecil) \$ 90.00
Refund, No Shows (Griffin) \$ 90.00
Refund, (Partial) (Slide) \$ 26.50
Ladies Door Prize \$ 55.00
Door Prize (\$164.00 x 3) \$ 492.00
Chaplin (Memorial Svc) \$ 25.00
Army Band Youth Fund \$ 250.00
Name Tags \$ 482.53

TOTAL \$13,376.15

BALANCE \$ 2,678.85

*SPECIAL NOTE: T.R. EVANS, ALEXANDER CITY, AL Returned his winnings (\$164.00) to the Association.

*CLARICE NORDHAUGEN, FARGO, ND give \$100.00 to help keep the News Letter going.

NOTE: THE BALANCE WILL BE RETURNED TO THE ASSOCIATION TO HELP COVER THE COST OF THE NEWS LETTERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CURRENT BY-LAWS. CURRENT BY-LAWS ALSO STATE THAT REVENUES ARE TO BE "STAND ALONE" PROJECTS AND NOT SUBSIDIZED BY THE ASSOCIATION.

BENNETT J. (KEMP)
54th Reunion Sec/Treas



END OF FY 1998 (21Sep98) CHECK BOOK BALANCE \$ 8,516.43
C.D. \$ 7,000.00
C.D. \$12,275.53
TOTAL \$27,791.96

INCOME:
NOTE # 1 (DEPOSITS) \$13,314.76
NOTE # 2 (CHECK BOOK INTEREST) \$ 22.06
NOTE # 3 (C.D. INTEREST) \$ 852.87
TOTAL \$13,999.69 \$41,791.65

EXPENDITURES:
NOTE # 4 (BANK SVC CHARGES) \$ 53.80
NOTE # 5 (NEWS LETTER) \$16,414.54
NOTE # 6 (POSTAGE) \$ 1,487.71
NOTE # 7 (ADMIN COST) \$ 6,488.20
NOTE # 8 (PETTY CASH FUND) \$ 400.00
NOTE # 9 (C.D. EARLY WITHDRAW) \$ 138.12
TOTAL \$24,792.37 \$16,999.28

END OF FY 1999 (21Sep99) CHECK BOOK BALANCE \$ 4,060.88
C.D. \$12,938.40
TOTAL \$16,999.28

I CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE REPORT IS TRUE AND CORRECT FOR FY 1999 ENDING 21 September 1999.

BENNETT J. (KEMP)
SEC/TREAS
164th INF ASSOCIATION

AUDIT COMMITTEE APPROVED (X) YES () NO
BY: [Signature] DATE: 2-25-99
BY: [Signature] DATE: 5-26-99
BY: [Signature] DATE: 5-26-99



Photo Credit: "This is Guadalcanal"

The commanders of the action at Guadalcanal convened there in January 1943. Standing at an observation post that looks down upon the precious terrain that claimed nearly 2,000 American lives are, left to right, Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox; Maj. Gen. Alexander M. Patch, Jr.; Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Commander of the Pacific Fleet; William F. "Bull" Halsey, Commander of the South Pacific Fleet; and Maj. Gen. J. Lawton Collins.



Say a Prayer for all our
Good Comrades for Good
Health...

Surrender Phamphlets

In a propaganda move of their own, the Japanese dropped these "tickets to armistice" over U.S. lines to tempt American soldiers into surrendering. The tantalizing offer was ignored; the pictures were probably kept.

TICKET TO ARMISTICE

USE THIS TICKET, SAVE YOUR LIFE
YOU WILL BE KINDLY TREATED

Follow These Instructions:

1. Come towards our lines waving a white flag.
2. Strap your gun over your left shoulder muzzle down and pointed behind you.
3. Show this ticket to the sentry.
4. Any number of you may surrender with this one ticket.

JAPANESE ARMY HEADQUARTERS

投降票

此ノ票ヲ授ケモノハ投降者ナリ
投降者ヲ殺害スルヲ嚴禁ス

大日本軍司令官

Sing your way to Peace pray for Peace





New Life Members

John A. Amundson	13 Nov 99	Bowman, ND
Russ Elvrum	16 Sep 99	Washburn, ND
* Robert L. Ford	21 Oct 99	Brea, CA
Robert Melville	24 Sep 99	Thousand Palms, CA
Don Stevens	14 Oct 99	Watford City, ND
** Charlene M. Tittsworth	14 Oct 99	Mills City, MT
(Widow of Vern Tittsworth - E. Company)		
Frank Walter	14 Oct 99	Dickinson, ND
* Served with the 164th in WWII and just heard of The Association		
** Associate Member		

New Members

* Bob Barr	3 Nov 99	Mandan, ND
Alan E. Brown	14 Oct 99	Porterville, CA
* Mary Caya	14 Oct 99	Eugene, OR
* Alba Clancy	14 Oct 99	Buffalo, ND
Orville N. Dodge	2 Sep 99	Las Vegas, NV
* William Falk (editor's Grandson)	23 Oct 99	Arlington, VA
* Brian Fosaaen	14 Oct 99	Dickinson, ND
James Lebus	2 Nov 99	Fargo, ND
* Gerald R. Maurseth	14 Oct 99	Cando, ND
Richard L. McLaughlin	7 Oct 99	Mandan, ND
Dennis Prindiville	14 Oct 99	Spokane, WA
* Jon Rasmussem	21 Oct 99	Milton, WA
* Associate Member		

A LETTER HOME

Camp Clairborne, Louisiana,
7 December 1941

Dear Mother and Dad:

Well it almost looks like we are in it tonight, who would have ever thought that Japan would have enough nerve to declare war on the US, but then getting back to reality they seem to have done it. Seems so foolish, as they should know better than to think they could possibly lick our forces, don't see how it can last long, and I shant bother to worry about it now.

Tonight I am sitting in Reg. Hq. listening to the radio and getting set for the amount of work all this will cause, also for the distasteful job of recalling those men discharged these past few weeks. Perhaps we won't do it but it looks as if we may receive orders to do so.

I understand that they are cleaning up New Orleans tonight and hope we are sent down to help. Suppose too that all over this country they are doing the same thing tonight, and before long all Japs in this country will be under Govt. control.

Looks now as if I won't be able to get a furlough, it won't surprise me to see all furloughs dropped by morning, the 2nd Army has had theirs canceled today, and expect ours momentarily. Better save some newspapers.

The one thing I don't want you to do is to sit around and worry about me, I am all right and will be all right even if we leave for war. We have here a job which incurs practically no risk, and I fully intend to hold this job.

Weather here in La. is still very fine, the days are warm and sunny and the nights cold, but not too bad. We have been issued new sport jackets which are just the thing for cool weather.

Have been feeling fine, and about the only thing wrong is this Ring Worm on my left leg. I got it the last week on maneuvers and it doesn't seem to want to heal up. The medics have a thing for it but it doesn't seem to help much. Last night I saw a druggist in town and got a new medicine which is supposed to do the trick, lets hope so. It doesn't hurt or itch, but it is just persistent and I surely don't want to get it real bad.

Col. Baglien just came by and told me he was open for all bets that we would be on the West Coast before 2 months, guess this silly move of Japan will give us a little travel at any rate.

Well must return to work, will write and let you know more later, suppose we will have our mail looked over before long too. I wonder if that will be done any by us here, or whether it will be done by division.

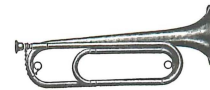
Your Son,

Harlan McDonald

(Editor's note: McDonald (Service Co., Devils Lake) was the 164th Regimental mail Sgt. After arriving overseas all our mail was censored by company officers. We could not tell where we were stationed. Cable grams from Australia, New Caledonia - "Sans Origin".)

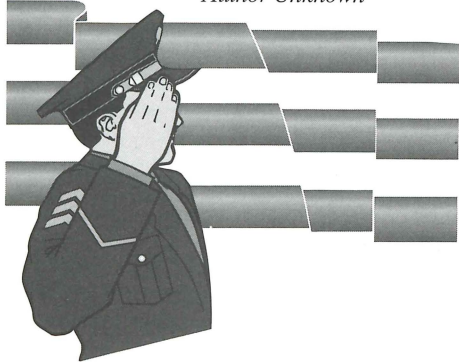


Last Roll Call



*If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a hug, a kiss,
Ah yes, these things I too will miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow,
I wish you sunshine of tomorrow.*

Author Unknown



Paul M. Bossoletti

WWII

Grand Forks, ND

(18 September 1999)

Howard R. Hunze

Korean War

Valley City, ND

(14 October 1999)

Arthur J. Nix

WWII

Moorhead, MN

(September 1999)

HELP

To complete 164th Infantry Association records, the names of Association Presidents are needed for the years 1948 - 1952 - 1953 - 1954. If you know the names please forward to Ben Kemp, Sec./Treas. Thanks.

ELISEO MARTINEZ is seeking information of fellow veterans of K Company 164th Infantry. Martinez served in K Company 1941 - 1945

Eliseo Martinez

10671 Sherman Plate

Sun Valley, CA 91375

The 164th Infantry News

Enclosed you'll find a \$20.00 MO for a 164th Regimental Flag. My father Clyde B. Rasmussen served with the 164th "H" Company. Anyone knowing my father or shed any light on his war service please contact me.

Sincerely,

Jon P. Rasmussen

704 27th Ave.

Milton, WA 98354

Ph # 253-925-5230

Ben Kemp

Enclosed check for \$50.00 for Life Membership

Robert Melville

A Company

73876 Elizobeth

1000 Palms, CA 92276

In Memory Of

\$10.00 in memory of my father
Elvin G. (Bud) Marmon

A Soldiers Thoughts in words
In the deep blue Pacific, far away.
The Lord must have lost his temper one day;
And in wrath he thumbed his nose
and on this spot an island rose.
A hell on earth believe me pal,
This place was named Guadalcanal.

A place where every man is weaned,
On bright yellow pills, called Atabrine.
Where a torrid sun curses flaming red,
And makes a man wish he were dead.
A spot where each man draws his lot;
Of fever, jaundice, and tropical rot.

For freedoms sake, we came to fight,
For our peoples sake, we fought with might.
For justice sake, we made them run,
For our children's sake, the fight was won.
For our country's sake, we were willing to roam,
But know for God's sake, send us home.

Jim Standish
Company "L"

Members Present at the 54th Annual Reunion in Bismarck, North Dakota on 24-26 September 1999

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY,

164TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

Douglas P. Burtell Bowman, ND
Donald Eichelberger Sharpsville, PA
Edgar A. Sinkbeil Colfax, WA
Raymond J. Sinkbeil Medicine Lodge, KS
Milton Schedd Newport Beach, CA

SERVICE COMPANY,

164TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

James M. Fenelon Marshalltown, IA
Vernon F. Fetch Bismarck, ND
Ruby Hendrickson Fargo, ND
John A. Kurtz Havre, MT
Alba Clancy Buffalo, ND
Rahe Clancy Severna Park, MD
Harvey Sand Langdon, ND
Kenneth Shaver Marshall, WI
Les Wichmann Minneapolis, MN
Howard White Bowman, ND

ARMY BAND,

164TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

Ralph H. Oehlke Kathryn, ND
Wesley A. Rockne St. Paul, MN

ANTI TANK COMPANY,

164TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

Lewis Baumann Fenton, MO
John R. Barbero Tolland, CT
Anton C. Beer Mandan, ND
Dale Dempsey Cicero, IL
Julean Lee Fargo, ND
Ralph H. Oehlke Kathryn, ND
Art Pepple Fessenden, ND
John L. Strauss Lisbon, ND
Albert Olenberger Rapid City, SD
Charles H. Walker Pembina, ND
Joseph F. Dest Hamden, CT
Adam J. Miltenberger Carson City, NV

MEDICS,

164TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

Leland Simek Bottineau, ND

HEADQUARTERS,

1ST BN, 164TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

Ray Farrow Cavalier, ND
Lorraine M. Gislason Tucson, AZ

COMPANY A, 1ST BN,

164TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

Paul E. Dickerson Canton, OH
Walter A. Hickey Hilliard, FL
E.J. Kavonius Woodbury, MN
Harold Krause Carson, ND
Don Stevens Watford City, ND

Anton J. Sturn Vallejo, CA
Mel Shirley Fresno, CA
Laura Ventsch Minot, ND
Warren Ventsch Valley City, ND

COMPANY B, 1ST BN,

164TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

Robert M. Carr Oakland, CA
Raymond D. Conlon Minto, ND
William J. Hagen Moorhead, MN
Dorothy Kjera Maxbass, ND
Brenton Knudson Petaluma, CA
Thelma Mannel Bismarck, ND
Malcolm J. McKay East Helena, MT
Clarice Nordhougen Fargo, ND
Horace F. Nearhood Toledo, OH
Ben Osborne Ponsford, MN
L.G. Wichmann Minneapolis, MN
Charles Walker Pembina, ND
Alice Rott Fargo, ND
Donald L. Wirtz Detroit Lakes, MN

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164TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

Treumann Lykken Grand Forks, ND
Charles Adamsen Grafton, ND
Henry M. Wiik Minot, ND

COMPANY D, 1ST BN,

164TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

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Maynard F. Holmes Carson, WA
Donna Kjonas Bismarck, ND
Albert Martin Kief, ND
Donald L. Monger Rugby, ND
Douglas McMahon Minot, ND
Joe Poleschook Max, ND
Edith Tuff Fargo, ND
Henry A. Violet Leeds, ND

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY,

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Raymond J. Sinkbeil Medicine Lodge, KS
Charles Walker Pembina, ND

COMPANY E, 2ND BN,

164TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

Carmen Burgad Napoleon, ND
Earl "Red" Cherrey Fairview, MT
Joel Fedje Hoople, ND
Robert P. Gehrman Sr. St. Paul, MN
Charlotte J. Jackson Williston, ND
Donald H. Jackson Bend, OR
Ben Osborne Ponsford, MN
Charles Ross Conyers, GA
Wesley A. Rockne St. Paul, MN
Francis J. Sommers St. Paul, MN

Clair Tongen Cavalier, ND
Charles Walker Pembina, ND

COMPANY F, 2ND BN,

164TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

John N. Alme Hemet, CA
George B. Laughlin Glendive, MT

COMPANY G, 2ND BN,

164TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

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Peter H. Grant Strum, WI
Milton W. Kane Fargo, ND
Hamlin L. Kjelland Gig Harbor, WA
Elmo R. Olson Finley, ND
Donald Robinson Bismarck, ND
Richard E. Stowell Denver, CO
Bernard A. Wagner Valley City, ND

COMPANY H, 2ND BN,

164TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

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Harold Collins Madison, MN
George Hopkins Tappen, ND
Don L. Hoffmann Jamestown, ND
James A. Johnson Fargo, ND
William H. Johnson Jamestown, ND
Ardis Mathews Fairmont, MN
Lenard Pfarr Circle Pines, MN
Charles Walker Pembina, ND
Donna Weidenbach Madison, MN

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY,

3RD BN, 164TH INFANTRY

REGIMENT

Edgar A. Sinkbeil Colfax, WA
Merrit Ogren Edgeley, ND

COMPANY I, 3RD BN,

164TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

Dennis Prindiville Spokane, WA

COMPANY K, 3RD BN,

164TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

Anton C. Beer Mandan, ND
Willis G. Clark Dickinson, ND
Ralph L. Gaugler Bismarck, ND
Byron Gilbertson Killdeer, ND
Rose Mann Bismarck, ND
Neyl McClure Bismarck, ND
Howard White Bowman, ND

COMPANY L, 3RD BN,

164TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

Alvin Tollefsrud Mayville, ND

COMPANY M, 3RD BN,

164TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

None

* 50 members from 42 states
attended the reunion in
Bismarck, ND.



Far left: Donna Hoff; Clarice Nordhougen;
Ruby Hendrickson; Alvin Tollefsrud, President,
164th Association; Wally Johnson; Milt Kane,
Vonnice Kane. The Committee met October 27,
1999, Fargo, ND to plan the 55th Annual
Reunion for 164th Association for 2000,
September 22, 23, 24 in the Holiday Inn, Fargo.
MARK YOUR CALENDAR.

1999 54th Reunion

24-26 September 1999 Bismarck, ND

GRAND DOOR PRIZE

Winner - Walter A. Hickey Hilleard, FL

164TH RAFFLE TICKETS DRAWING

\$164.00 T.R. Evans Allexander City, AL
 \$164.00 Horace F. Nearhood Toledo, OH
 \$164.00 Charles H. Walker Pembina, ND

Note: T. R. Evans returned his check to the 164th Association. Thanks

LADIES DOOR PRIZE: BIRD HOUSES

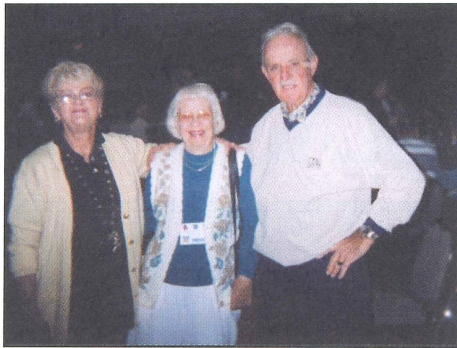
John R. Barbero Tolland, CT
 Julean Lee Fargo, ND

MENS SWEATSHIRTS (Thin Red Line)

Alba Clancy Buffalo, ND
 Albert Olenberger Rapid City, SD
 Wesley A. Rockne St. Paul, MN
 Don Stevens Watford, ND
 E.J. Kavonius St. Paul, MN

MOVIE POSTERS

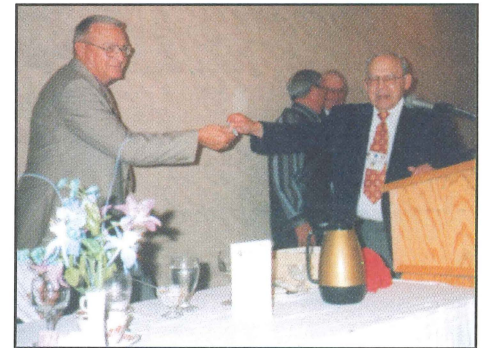
Mary Baumann Fenton, MO
 John Kurtz Havre, MT
 Margret Lykken Grand Forks, ND
 Charles Ross Conyers, GA
 Mary Wagner Valley City, ND



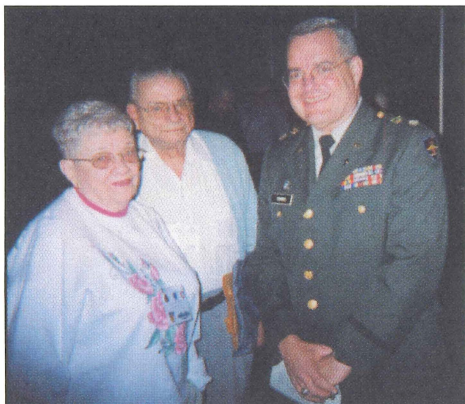
(L-R) Donna Piper, Lorraine Gislason (widow of Marv Gislason, Hqds 1st Bn 164th - Crystal, ND). Lorraine served in the Marine Corps WWII, Ray Piper, 10th Marines 2nd Marine Division. Ray and Donna had breakfast with the 164th at Annual Reunion. Thanks for visiting the 54th reunion. (See letters to Editor)



Walter Hickey - A Company - Hillard, FL, winner of the door prizes at the 54th Annual Reunion, Bismarck, ND. Presentation made by Vern Fetch.



One of the winners of the 164th raffle ticket. President Frank Weisgerber makes presentation.



Sylvia and Wes Rockne, Roseville, MN visiting with Chaplin Jeff Franko at the 54th Annual Reunion.



Alvin Tollefsrud and wife Marion. Tollefsrud elected President of the 164th Association for year 2000. Tollefsrud served in Company L in WWII and was one of the 27 former 164thers that returned to Guadalcanal October 1992.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our 1999, 54th Annual Reunion was again a huge success. Even though our ranks are decreasing we all had a good time meeting with old friends and remembering some of the dangers we shared in serving our country. The 55th Reunion Y2000, September 23-25 will be in Fargo, ND. The committee has completed preliminary plans and will be ready to welcome you, so be sure to mark you calendar.

By this time you have received your letter about the future publication of the 164th Infantry Newsletter to keep us together and cover some of the history of the 164th, your help is needed. Please respond as quickly as possible. A decision to continue publication will depend on all of us. Your support and decision will be published in the newsletter.

I deem it an honor and privilege to serve as President of the 164th Infantry association for Y2000.

May you and yours enjoy a healthy and very happy holiday season.

Je suis pret

Alvin Tollefsrud

Knox Peeks At The Japs



SECRETARY KNOX squats on the ground before a set of captured Japanese binoculars for a look at Jap positions on Guadalcanal. The picture was made during the secretary's tour of U. S. Pacific bases and before the Japs withdrew from Guadalcanal.

(Editor's note: Secretary Knox visited Guadalcanal in November or December 1942. While he was on the island, Japanese planes carried out a night bombing raid on Henderson Field. I was on a work detail unloading 55 gallon drums of high octane aviation gasoline from a Liberty Ship. The powers in control decided to move the Liberty Ship to Tulagi Harbor twenty miles from Guadalcanal to minimize the chances of receiving a bomb hit. The 30 to 40 164thers on the work detail had a very good view of the exploding bombs, search lights and anti aircraft fire. The rank and file had no idea that Secretary of the Navy Knox was inspecting Guadalcanal and viewing the battlefield.)



Merry Christmas To All...
and a Very
Happy New Millennium..



THE 164TH INFANTRY NEWS

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1998-99 Association Officers are:

President Alvin Tollefsrud
Mayville, ND
Vice President Vern Fetch
Bismarck, ND
Sec./Treas. Ben Kemp
Bismarck, ND
Editor Jim Fenelon
Marshalltown, IA

164th Infantry News

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